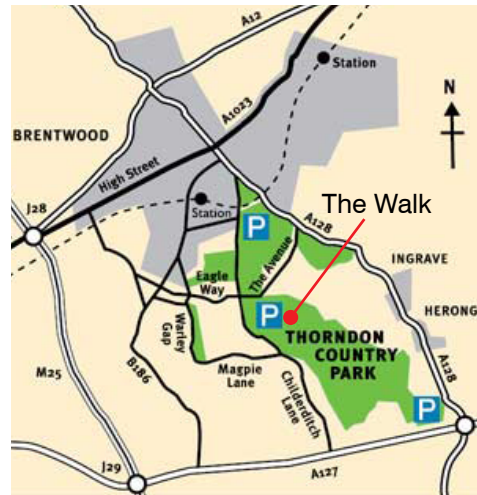


Thorndon Countryside Centre

The centre is a joint venture between Essex County Council and Essex Wildlife Trust. Much of the wood used in the building's construction was salvaged from Thorndon's own storm damaged trees. The centre holds informative displays and light refreshments are on sale.



The Deer Park

The magnificent heavy-headed pollarded oaks and hornbeams are a reminder that this area was a deer park in the 18th century.

Childerditch Pond

This is an artificial pond created many hundreds of years ago by Cistercian monks attached to Coggeshall Abbey. The pond was only dug twice this century; the first time by German prisoners of war after World War One and the second time mechanically in 1976. Keep a watch out for kingfishers and herons.

The Woodland Trust has purchased 135 acres of Hatch Farm, creating a link between Thorndon's North and South Parks. The Trust will be planting trees to recreate a parkland landscape.

Jury Hill

A good place for a seat if ever there was one! From here there are fine views across the Thames Valley to Kent.

Distance and time taken
4.5 miles (7 km) – 2.5 hours.

Going
Hilly in places.

Habitat types
Deer parkland and conifer woodland.

Ordnance Survey Map
Explorer 175.

Refreshments
Thorndon Countryside Centre.

Dogs
If you take your dog with you, please keep it under control, preferably on a lead..

Healthy Life Essex
www.HealthyLifeEssex.co.uk

Thorndon Park Golf Course

Perhaps the only golf course landscaped by Capability Brown! Actually the course was started in the 1920s on land sold by the Petre family. The 9th Lord did pay Brown the sum of £5,000 in 1760 to landscape the area.

Childerditch Field

This field was last ploughed in 1970 and has since been used for grazing cattle. Notice the landslips which have developed on the steep clay slopes. The marshy area at the bottom of the field is home to some unusual plants such as wild angelica and fleabane. The field is also one of the best in the district for butterflies.

Old Hall Pond

This was the fish pond for the old Thorndon Hall. In the early 18th century it was incorporated into a very elaborate landscape garden plan for the 8th Lord Petre. To satisfy his passion for horticulture the 8th Lord built huge hot houses along the western bank of the pond and successfully grew pineapples and bananas!

The Crinoline Lady

A visit to the park wouldn't be complete without seeing the Crinoline Lady, the name given to a very old oak pollard. The strange growth around the base of the tree is said to be caused by generations of deer rubbing the velvet from their newlygrown antlers in summer.



Country Walking in Essex
Thorndon Park